



## Envision Arlington Standing Committee

Date: January 8, 2020  
Time: 7:30 - 9:00 PM  
Location: Town Hall Annex, 1st floor meeting room

### Minutes

Attendance: Juli Brazile, Sue Doctrow, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Scott Lever, Greg Christiana, Kelly Lynema

Guests: Christine Michaels, Len Diggins, Michaiah Healy

1. Introductions  
Names around the table in case people hadn't met.
2. Approve December minutes  
Minutes approved.
3. Announcements
  - a. Juli shared that she had already received an email from a Town Meeting Member about scheduling spring precinct meetings. She will talk with Len about getting TMMs to convene to discuss spring meetings.
  - b. Anne Ellinger from True Story Theater asked if Envision Arlington would be interested in cosponsoring their show at ACAC for MLK Day. The group approved the idea; Diversity Task Group will share the event on their website and social media channels.
4. Annual Town Survey  
The announcement about the Annual Town Survey on was sent via Town Notice and social media on Saturday. The press release should also be in next week's Advocate. More than 500 responses have been received so far, with an average time of 15 minutes. The survey will be live until the end of February, so we have time to get the word out.  
  
The group discussed ways to promote the survey among people who don't subscribe to Town communication channels. Juli asked if we could email the faith community in Arlington through the DTG email list. Juli will also follow up with Jo Anne Preston about ideas she had for publicity. Scott will work with the schools to ask principals to send announcements to parents. Kelly will design a flyer for volunteers to post in apartment buildings, stores, and community bulletin boards.
5. Discussion: Warrant Articles
  - a. Appropriation/ Water Bodies Fund  
This is submitted jointly from Envision Arlington, the Spy Pond and Reservoir Task Groups, and the Conservation Committee each year. Approved with no changes.
  - b. Town Goals  
A discussion was had about whether to submit the changes to the Town Goals as two related warrant articles or one comprehensive warrant article.

Doug Heim proposed a combined warrant article, and the group agreed that this is the best approach.

Sue and Juli will finalize the wording. Sue will draft a memo for the task group chairs by the end of the month to alert them to what we are doing. The report to Town Meeting will also describe the Envision Arlington vision for the future.

Sue mentioned that there may be some members of task groups and Town Meeting who will resist the change in wording from "Town Goals" to "Town Values." There was a discussion of how the statements are clearly value statements that express foundational community values. The group also discussed the difference between task groups and committees: most Envision Arlington task groups function like committees and are beholden to Open Meeting Law, so eventually they should all be renamed as committees instead of task groups.

c. Civilian Police Review Board Study Group

Scott described the background behind this proposed warrant article; he had agreed to help members of Arlington Fights Racism form a warrant article for Town Meeting to express their desires to improve the relationship and trust between residents and the police. He met with members of Arlington Fights Racism and Town Council to review draft language.

Some individuals wanted a warrant article to request the formation of a civilian review board, however Town Meeting typically expresses a desire to first study an issue to deliver recommendations for how to move forward before establishing a new committee or board. Scott suggested that a two-step process of first establishing a study group to conduct research, look at the issues and various forms a civilian review board could take, study the legal issues and implications, the various human resources and union issues, convene public discussions, and then make specific recommendations to Town Meeting would be more likely to bring people along and garner more support for a civilian review board. There will be significant work to be accomplished before a civilian review board could be established but insufficient time to do it prior to Town Meeting, therefore the group felt that a warrant article to study the process and determine what works best for the Town would be the best approach and most in line with Envision Arlington's goals.

There was a discussion about the detailed proposal that would accompany the warrant article language. Scott said that the final recommendations for composition of the study group are still in progress, and that he would keep the Standing Committee informed of changes. The language of the warrant article was approved, and it was decided that Envision Arlington would submit or co-sponsor the article.

6. CDBG Funds for the 2021 Survey

The group discussed asking for more money for the 2021 survey. Kelly said she had asked members of the department and that DPCD is recommending that we do not ask for more. The group discussed other ways to cut paper and printing costs, such as printing the inserts on colored buckslips instead of full sheets of paper and no longer providing printed reports for Town Meeting.

Kelly has updated the CDBG application for 2020-2021 and will send it by Juli for her review before submitting it.

7. Discussion: Precinct Meetings

Len joined the meeting to discuss his involvement in planning spring precinct meetings. The group decided that it would not be a conflict of interest for him to plan precinct meetings while also running for Select Board. He will work with Greg Christiana and Adam McNeal on next steps.

8. Transition Planning

With Juli stepping down as chair, she is looking for interim co-chairs from the Diversity Task Group and Sustainable Arlington. Michaiah Healy is potentially interested in co-chairing; Brucie Moulton is talking with Sustainable Arlington about it.

The group discussed ways to strengthen the relationship between the Standing Committee and the Task Groups. Juli presented a memo she drafted with Brucie to communicate the value of a stronger relationship between the groups, and suggested that members of the Standing Committee should regularly attend task group meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.